

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON NATURAL GAS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

### Natural Gas Pipeline Awareness and Safety

---

ETOWAH UTILITIES is committed to providing safe and reliable natural gas service to the city of Etowah and southeast McMinn County and Delano service area while minimizing impacts on the environment. We utilize safe operational practices with trained and knowledgeable personnel. EUB distributes natural gas through an underground network of pipes in this service area along with mains along Hwy 411 and Hwy 30. We provide the final delivery of this vital energy source to our customers.

### Public Responsibilities for Pipeline Safety

---

Interstate natural gas pipelines are America's safest transportation networks. The industry has achieved this through diligent efforts coordinated with state and federal agencies and the public. Natural gas is flammable. If its release is not controlled, fire or an explosion is possible. Our goal is to improve public safety by continuing to elevate the understanding of everyone in our community. You can help by following these steps:

- **Be aware of pipeline in your area.** EUB paints pipeline markers with high visibility yellow paint and installs them at road crossings, bridges, and other points along the pipeline. The markers include ownership information and telephone numbers to call to reach a representative. If a pipeline is on your property, an easement grants the pipeline company the right to access, operate, and maintain the line. Such easements must be kept clear of structures and trees.
- **Call before digging.** Anytime you have to dig, or anytime a contractor may dig on your property, ensure that a call is made to the Tennessee One-Call System. EUB is a member of the System. Before digging for any reason, call 811. Within 72 hours, EUB will investigate the area and mark line locations with highly visible, water-soluble paint. Every effort is made to mark directly over lines, but could vary by two feet in either direction. Depth is not generally indicated. It is highly recommended that careful hand-digging be employed if in the area of a marked line.
- **Report unusual conditions.** Your help can be vital in alerting Etowah Utilities to conditions or situations that could threaten the integrity of pipelines in your neighborhood. If you note any of these conditions, please contact EUB immediately:

**Accidental hit of a pipeline.** Occasionally, a plow, post-hole digger or other equipment strikes a pipeline. Damage to the pipe—even if not noticeably significant—creates a concentration of stress and corrosion on that part of the pipe. We would need to inspect it immediately.

**Washout of soils on a pipeline right-of-way or along a river or stream bank.** Erosion can expose a pipeline to damage. EUB would work to protect such an exposed area.

**Suspected pipeline leak.** There are several signs that can indicate a leak. Distressed or dead vegetation in a pipeline right-of-way can signal an underground leak. A hissing sound or odor of gas in the pipeline right-of-way calls for immediate attention.

**Odor of gas.** Natural gas has no natural odor. It is odorized to give it a "rotten egg" or sulfur-like odor as a means of leak detection.

### Steps to Take in an Emergency or Suspected Leak

---

If you encounter a leak or suspect one, you should take these immediate steps to protect yourself and others.

1. Leave the area immediately.
2. Warn others.
3. Do not light a match, start an engine, use a telephone (in that area), operate a light switch, or do anything else that could cause a spark.
4. Call 911 or ETOWAH UTILITIES 423-263-9441 immediately using a telephone that is well away from the suspected leak area.

*For more information about natural gas, its uses, and safety, please do not hesitate to call Etowah Utilities at 423-263-9441*